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14 November 1966

Carl phoned this p.m. He said he attended the literary evening at the Overseas Press Club on Friday, 11 November, but that he sat in the rear and merely observed. He took no active part. The proceedings were tape recorded (I neglected to ask whether DRACH and PAVLYCHKO were aware of this.) and Carl will send a copy to me. Questions asked from the floor were all in a very polite tone and great care was taken by the emigre participants not to put DRACH and PAVLYCHKO in an embarrassing position. Unfortunately - because the latter took every advantage of the situation. Carl said he felt emigres in attendance were really enchanted - most of them politically too unsophisticated to get the real picture. He feels it is necessary to do some educating.

DRACH and PAVLYCHKO expressed desire for expanded cultural exchanges. The past was all blamed on Stalin. WE, the new generation, are doing what we can. They were asked about the arrests. They said that yes, there had been arrests. It was a very unhappy event for them all. They were very very sorry because among those arrested were their friends. On other hand, some of the things being talked about in the emigration were not true; for instance, DZYUBA never had been arrested and SVITLYCHNYI was released shortly after his arrest. The arrests were not for literary deviations but for political reasons. Some people went too far. DRACH said measures taken were a bit too drastic - there was no need to put individuals in jail. He would have tried them before a Comrade's tribunal. Everything will be done to have all those individuals arrested released - probably on the 50th anniversary of the revolution. DRACH and PAVLYCHKO very keen on getting the individuals released from jail.

They expressed great interest in young emigre Ukrainian writers. They would like to have writers like Vera Vovk in Kiev.

Additional details will come in a report from Carl.

A meeting with Bilokolos, Ukrainian MFA, is supposed to take place on 15 November, attended by KLACHKO, E. Stakhiv and one other individual.

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